

I am a DSL subscriber of Sonic.net, an independent internet service provider based in Santa Rosa, CA. I'm disturbed by any attempt to deregulate large phone companies' pricing of broadband service to independent ISP's, as without oversight and in the long run, the large companies' market power will surely price small ISP's out of business.

Locally, in the San Francisco Bay Area, if small ISP's weren't available, my only other practical alternative would be from the phone giant SBC, with their SBC/Yahoo DSL service. They track their customers' internet activity in order to serve them unwanted advertisements--that is, I would be forced to subscribe to a service that not only violates my privacy but is annoying as well. SBC/Yahoo also has a reputation for terrible service. Sonic.net has a fine reputation, offers extra services, and has an excellent privacy policy. They've served me well for 16 months.

Please keep regulatory oversight over large phone companies and DSL. In this case, de-regulation would mean less competition, not more.